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A.—(*a*) Transfers of District Board Engineers are made according to the exigencies of service and in consultation with the presidents of district boards concerned.

(*b*) Mr. T. Sekharan.

(*c*) On the 10th March 1933 (afternoon).

(*d*) On the 13th April 1933 (afternoon).

(*e*) & (*f*) A vacancy arose in Madura, and as the President, District Board, Salem, desired to have the services of Mr. Sekharan, the latter was posted to Salem and Mr. Tirumalaiswami Ayyar was transferred to Madura.

(*g*) Mr. T. Sekharan; he joined duty on the 15th April 1933 (forenoon).

(*h*) Travelling allowance for his transfer from—

	RS.	A.	P.
(i) Nellore to Salem	172	4	0
(ii) Salem to Madura	145	8	0
Total ...	317	12	0

(*i*) Mr. Sekharan, who was acting as District Board Engineer, Salem, before Mr. Tirumalaiswami Ayyar took charge there, was not transferred to another district but reverted to his permanent appointment as Local Fund Assistant Engineer, Coimbatore, on relief by Mr. Tirumalaiswami Ayyar. Hence no travelling allowance was admissible to him from provincial funds. Information regarding the travelling allowance, etc., drawn by him in respect of his journey to join his appointment as Acting District Board Engineer, Salem, in April 1933 is not available.

Amendment to the Local Boards and Municipalities Electoral Rules regarding the removal of the veil, worn by Gosha ladies, at the time of exercising their franchise.

* 184 Q.—B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of the judgment of the Officiating Chief Justice of the High Court, Madras, dated 8th September 1933, in C.M.P. No. 2711 of 1933 (for a writ of certiorari);

(*b*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to amend the rules for conduct of elections passed by the Government under the provisions of the Local Boards Act and the District Municipalities Act, with a view to make provision to enable gosha women voters to exercise their franchise without unveiling their faces to males including candidates;

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(c) whether any report has been received by the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipalities from the Election Officer, Kayalpatnam, in connexion with the local boards election held there on 15th October 1932 as regards the effect of insistence of one of the male candidates that Gosha women voters should unveil their faces to him, and if so, what the report is, and whether the Government will be pleased to place the said report on the table of this House; and

(d) whether the Government have received any petition from the Muslim women voters of Kayalpatnam praying the Government to frame such rules as are necessary to enable them to exercise their franchise without unveiling their faces to males including candidates for election under any circumstances; and if so, what action has been taken by the Government on the same?

A.—(*a*) The Government have perused the judgment.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) A report was received by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards from the Election Officer. Government see no reason to place the report on the table.

(*d*) No.

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the present rules as construed by the High Court decision actually deprive the Gosha women of their franchise? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" In the answer to the next question the hon. Member will find that Government are considering the question of revising the rules, wherever possible."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the introduction of purdah voting will be followed by abuses at election booths? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" It is a difficult question to answer. There may possibly be abuses in some cases. The presiding officers appointed will do their duty."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I ask whether the hon. the Minister will take the Muslim members of this Council into confidence before the rules are finally approved and published? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" No objection to consult the Muslim members at that time."

Decision of the Madras High Court regarding the removal by Gosha women of their veil at the time of exercising their franchise.

* 185 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur YAHYA ALI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been called to the recent judgment of the Madras High Court in Mr. Bijli Sahib's election case containing reference to the right of the candidates at elections to insist upon the female electors exercising their franchise unveiling their faces for purposes of identification; and